



News Release

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Conference Helps Utahns Cope with Brain Injuries

(Salt Lake City, UT) – Already this year, an estimated 2,000 Utahns have suffered life-altering brain injuries as a result of falls, car crashes, and attempted or completed suicides. Approximately 380 of these individuals have died as a result of their injury.

“Every day in Utah, seven people are hospitalized or die from a TBI,” said Trisha Keller, Manager of the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) Violence and Injury Prevention Program. “The vast majority of those injured are older Utahns ages 65 and up and infants under the age of one. The real tragedy is that most TBIs are preventable.”

According to the UDOH, in 2008, 2,675 Utahns suffered a traumatic brain injury (TBI) severe enough to require hospitalization. Of these, 511 (19.1%) died. The leading causes of TBIs in 2008 were falls (34.9%), motor vehicle crashes (21.4%), and self-harm (7.1%).

The Brain Injury Association of Utah (BIAU) will hold its 21st Annual Families and Professionals Conference on October 5, 2010 at the Salt Lake Community College Larry H. Miller Campus in Sandy. The conference offers education and support for survivors and family members, health care professionals, educators, and other service providers.

To register for the BIAU Conference visit <http://www.biau.org>. Additional TBI-related data and information about Utah’s TBI Fund are available at <http://www.health.utah.gov/vipp>.

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The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death, assuring access to affordable, quality health care, and promoting healthy lifestyles.